

78. The Collector of Bijápúr alone offers a qualified dissent from this opinion. In Bijápúr, the number of compoundings rose from 12 to 22, and the Collector is of opinion that "there appears ground for apprehension that the orders of Government regarding the application of the section have not been strictly followed. In three of the cases, the amount of compensation recovered was only 2 annas each; and in all these cases the amount of compensation was equal to the estimated value of the damage to the forests. In future, however, the proceedings under that section will be subjected to closer supervision in accordance with the orders issued in Government Resolution No. 4516, dated 18th June, 1895."

79. The sums levied naturally seem paltry to a new-comer. But, in forestry, the word "valuable" is a very relative term, and depends on circumstances. In Bijápúr, if a few miserable sticks, used in the construction of the slenderest fabrics be excepted, the forest consists of scrub fit for nothing but firewood. The produce (with the exception of *cassia*, the bark of which is used in tanning) is removed by head-loads or animal-loads for sale as firewood in the bazárs, and a head-load of such stuff is worth only a few annas. If, therefore, no notice is taken of the theft of a head-load of this description, no notice can be taken of the theft of, practically, the whole forest. A man, who is caught perhaps in one act of fifty, is warned, and let off. When the same individual is again caught in the commission of an offence, it is compounded by the payment of the value of the wood as estimated by a *panch*, whose sympathies are entirely on the side of the thief, who then goes off to the nearest bazar and sells his load for its real value. In my opinion, these cases in Bijápúr have been extremely leniently dealt with, in fact too leniently. To accept only the value of the wood as estimated by an indulgent *panch*, is really to offer a premium on theft, in a district, moreover, which is extremely badly off for wood, and in which the protection of the remnants of the forest is of very great importance to agriculturists as well as to the inhabitants, generally.

80. A large number of cases was let off with simple warning. There were 101 such cases in Kolábá, and altogether 363 have been reported.

(2).—*Protection from Fire.*

81. The following table shows the results reported for each Division :—

Division.	AREA IN SQUARE MILES.			Percentage of failures to area attempted.	Cost.		Proportion of area under fire-protection to total area of Reserves.
	Attempted.	Failures.	Protected.		Per square mile protected.	Per acre protected.	
					Rs.	Pies.	
Northern Division of Kanara ...	567·05	5·23	561·82	·92	21·87	6·5	...
Central Division of Kanara ...	275·43	37·79	237·64	13·72	24·07	7·2	...
Southern Division of Kanara ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Belgaum Division ...	308·43	8·85	299·58	2·8	10	3	...
Dharwar do. ...	56·22	8·23	47·99	14·16	12·12	3·6	...
Bijápúr do. ...	104·32	5·28	99·04	5·06	4·6	1·4	...
Kolábá do. ...	100·57	1·64	98·93	·01	6·7	2·01	...
Ratnagiri do. ...	20·08	·00	20·08	·00	0·81	·25	...
Total in 1894-95 ...	1,432·10	67·02	1,365·08	4·68	16·69	5·00	50·77
Total in 1893-94 ...	1,320	26	1,294	1·97	15·62	4·68	53·41
Increase or Decrease in 1894-95 ...	+112	+41	+71	+2·71	+1·07	+0·32	—2·64

82. A larger area was firetraced in every division excepting Bijápúr. The cost per square mile increased from Rs. 15·62 to Rs. 16·69 owing to the long drought. The failures reported also increased 2·71 per cent.

83. The comparative failure of the operations is partly ascribed to incendiarism and partly to the long drought, which increased the danger of accidental fire. It is quite impossible to say positively, in any case, to which of the two causes a fire should be ascribed, unless, indeed, an incendiary has been detected in the very act—an extremely rare occurrence. Where, however, the same jungles

are burnt year after year, as in parts of Mundgod, there is strong presumptive evidence that the fires have been wilfully lighted.

84. The apparent decrease in the proportion of area protected from fire to the total area, is owing to about 305 square miles of "Protected" forest having been converted into "Reserved" during the year under report.

85. In the Northern Division of Kanara, of the 567.05 square miles attempted to be protected, only 5.23 square miles were reported as having been burnt, the area burnt in the previous year being .38 of the 513.61 square miles fire-traced. Thirty-two fires occurred in the division. Of these, 28 are reported to have been purposely lighted by villagers for grazing purposes.

86. In the Halyál-range, 49 square miles of forest were added to the specially protected area, during the year.

87. The area under protection in Central Kanara, was increased by 13.54 square miles. The cost per square mile was Rs. 24.07, against Rs. 22.92 of 1893-94.

88. No special measures were adopted in Southern Kanara, and the greater part of the Siddápúr and Sirsi ranges was no doubt burnt.

89. The area attempted in Belgaum amounted to 308.43 square miles, against 278.88 square miles in 1893-94. The percentage of failure to area protected, was 2.8, against 2.49. There was a little increase in the expenditure, which came to Rs. 10 per square mile, as against 9.04 of the previous year. The increase was necessitated by the extension of fuel-cuttings in Khánápúr, the protection of which costs more than that of the ordinary forests. The fire-protection had also to be prolonged owing to absence of storms in April and May.

90. One hundred and five cases of fire are reported to have occurred in the protected area, and nearly all of them were, Mr. Murray says, "undoubtedly caused by incendiaries intent on getting an early supply of grass for their cattle or of ashes for their fields."

91. The area attempted in Dharwar, showed a small increase (2.31 square miles), and the results reported compare favourably with those of the previous year. There were 63 reported fires in the division.

92. In Kolábá, about one-quarter of the area of the division was under protection, and 98.93 square miles are reported to have been successfully protected out of 100.57 square miles attempted. The cost, however, is about double that of the previous year, and this is because the number of fire-traces was increased during the year under report.

93. The following areas are estimated to have escaped fire without the adoption of special measures :—

		Acres.
Northern Division of Kanara	...	471,531
Central Division of Kanara	...	385,142
Southern Division of Kanara	...	919,530
Belgaum Division	...	230,327
Dharwar Division	...	218,921
Bijápúr Division	...	88,960
Kolábá Division	...	131,443
Ratnagiri Division	...	...
Total	...	2,445,854

94. The area reported as having escaped fire without the taking of special measures amounted to 4,162 square miles, or 77.3 per cent. of the whole area, during 1893-94. During the year under report, it amounted to 3,822 square miles, or 71.8 per cent. of the whole area. I am afraid that but little reliance can be placed on these figures. Those for Sirsi and Siddápúr, for instance, are, I should say from what I saw, extremely inaccurate. In these two ranges 1,111 acres, of a total area of 531,075 acres, are reported to have been burnt, and the damage is said to have been Rs. 21. In my opinion, a far greater area than that reported was burnt, and it is quite certain that the extent of the fires has been greatly under-estimated in both ranges.

95. Altogether there were 649 cases of detected fires, but the offenders were discovered in only 12.

(3.)—*Regulation of Grazing and Protection from Cattle.*

96. The area closed to all animals amounts to 852 square miles, to browsers 845, and that open to all animals to 3,648 square miles. Details of the areas closed and left open respectively, are given in Appendix 54.